

In the claims

Please enter the following amendments.

Claims 1-27 (Canceled).

28. (New) A composition for the administration of an agent to a cell comprising a viscous material and an agent to be delivered, wherein the viscous material comprises methyl cellulose in a concentration range of between 1.0 and 2.0% (w/w), and wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of proteins, peptides, nucleotide molecules, saccharides, polysaccharides, lipids, synthetic chemotherapeutic agents, and diagnostic compounds.

29. (New) The composition of claim 28, wherein the composition has approximately the same apparent viscosity, at a shear stress of between approximately 1 and 1000 Pascal and at a strain rate approximately that of endocytosis, as the cytosolic fluid of the cell to which the agent is to be delivered.

30. (New) The composition of claim 28 wherein the concentration of methyl cellulose is less than or equal to 1.75 % (w/w).

31. (New) The composition of claim 28, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of insulin, alpha interferons, beta interferon, follicle stimulating hormone, and growth factors.

32. (New) A method for delivering an agent to cells at a site where uptake is desired comprising administering to the cells at the site where uptake is desired a composition comprising

(a) a viscous material comprising methyl cellulose in a concentration range of between 1.0 and 2.0% (w/w), and

(b) the agent to be delivered, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of proteins, peptides, nucleotide molecules, saccharides, polysaccharides, lipids, synthetic chemotherapeutic agents, and diagnostic compounds.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the cells to which the agent is to be delivered are in the nose, rectum, mouth, ear, eye, or lungs.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the composition is administered topically.

35. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the site is mucosal tissue.

36. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the site is lower gastrointestinal tract mucosal tissue.

37. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein site is the vagina or rectum.

38. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the site is the nose, eye, or mouth.

39. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the site is the respiratory or pulmonary system.